

MOHAWK TRAIL WOODLANDS PARTNERSHIP
Forest-Based Economic Development and Conservation

Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership presents -

Oaks in New England Forests: keystones for Biodiversity and Resiliency

Saturday, December 11, 2021, 10 - 11:30 a.m., via Zoom

Free and open to the public. To register, please email Lisa Hayden at lhayden@newenglandforestry.org to request the Zoom link and dial-in info.

Join local experts to learn about the important role and future health of an essential tree species in our local forests, landscapes and yards – the oaks. Seventy percent of the forests of southern New England are dominated by oaks – champions of carbon sequestration, soil stabilization, and watershed management due to their enormous root systems. Native oak trees host a complex web of wildlife including more than 500 species of moths and butterflies, and yet this forest type is facing growing pressures that compromise its long-term health and ability to regenerate.

Speakers will include:

- **Dr. Desiree L. Narango, David H. Smith Conservation Fellow at University of Massachusetts Amherst, and USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station**, will share information on the vast diversity of New England wildlife that depend on oak trees and discuss her research exploring how oak restoration can help facilitate successful conservation of songbirds and pollinators in managed ecosystems. (Read about Narango's research at her website: <https://desireelnarango.weebly.com/>)
- **Logan Johnson, Northeast Region Coordinator for the Forest Stewards Guild**, will speak about a multi-state initiative to provide resources and best practices for land managers, foresters and landowners to keep this tree species functioning through a new Oak Resiliency Assessment Tool for southern New England Forests. (Learn more at the Guild's oak web page: <http://foreststewardsguild.org/oak-resiliency/>)

The Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership (MTWP) is a 21-town collaboration in northwestern Massachusetts with regional, state and federal partners focused on forest conservation, sustainable management and natural resource-based economic development for rural communities. For more information, visit MohawkTrailWoodlandsPartnership.org/ or email bgirshman@gmail.com